

Provider Update

April 30 Medicare Payment/COVID-19 Discharges

Virginia Premier is committed to the health and safety of our physicians, members and employees. In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are actively updating you on the following Medicare topics:

1. Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospitals - Section 3710 of the CARES Act directs the Secretary to increase the weighting factor of the assigned Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) by 20 percent for an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 discharged during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) period.
2. Discharges of an individual diagnosed with COVID19 will be identified by the presence of the following International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis codes:
 - B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere) for discharges occurring on or after January 27, 2020, and on or before March 31, 2020. For discharges prior to April 1, 2020, [read the ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guideline – Supplement](#).
 - U07.1 (COVID-19) for discharges occurring on or after April 1, 2020, through the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency period. For discharges on or after April 1, 2020, [read the ICD-10-CM Official Coding and Reporting Guidelines](#).
3. To implement this temporary adjustment, Medicare's claims processing systems will apply an adjustment factor to increase the Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Group (MS-DRG relative weight that would otherwise be applied by 20 percent when determining IPPS operating payments for discharges described above).

Virginia Premier is monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic situation and will keep you apprised as additional information becomes available. Should you have any questions, please contact our Provider Relations team at (804) 968-1529 from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday.